

## **Tips for City Trees, Spring & Summer 2002**

### **Water your street tree**

Water your tree once a week (every 7 – 10 days) on from spring thaw to winter freeze. Newly planted trees will require watering for the first 2-3 years until they are established. Water your tree thoroughly with approximately 20 gallons, or hand water by running a hose at low pressure for 20 minutes. During really hot weather, your tree will need 30 gallons of water each week, applied in 2 separate waterings: 15 gallons one day and 15 gallons a few days later. Please pour the water slowly into the pipe-grate protruding from the soil surface.

If your tree pit does not have a drain grate protruding from the soil, pour the water into the crack running between the curb and the sidewalk (from Trees New York Online). **Remember:** cultivating the soil allows water to seep to the roots, and adding mulch will conserve soil moisture.

### **Planting in tree pits**

Planting flowers and groundcovers in your tree well breaks up the soil and allow the tree's roots to easily access water and oxygen. However, do not add more than ½ - 1" of soil to the tree well. Extra soil or mulch against the trunk can cause the bark to rot. Be careful when cultivating the soil; use a small hand shovel or fork. The roots of large trees take a longer time to recover from injury than the roots of a young tree.

### **Do not fertilize**

Slow-release fertilizer is added to the soil for new street trees. In addition, never fertilize a tree during mid- to late- summer. Fertilizer is best added before bud break in the spring or in late fall.